



Students move between floors in the area linking the Student Commons with the Information Commons.

In late April a vibrant new heart started beating in the City Campus when staff and students moved into the newly constructed Kate Edger Information Commons and Student Commons buildings.

The Student Commons houses core student services such as Health and Counselling, part of AUSA, the Student Accommodation Bureau, and later the Graduate Lounge and the International Student Lounge.

The new complex also offers retail and business spaces such as the University Bookshop (page 6), Campus Pharmacy, Munchy Mart (a foodmarket), STA Travel, the National Bank, Ubix Copy Centre, and a café called Pods. A hairdresser will open in late June.

The Kate Edger Information Commons provides computer workstations, electronic classrooms, and flexible study and social spaces with proactive learning support. A further café to be established on level 0 of the Information Commons will open onto the beautiful north-facing courtyard.

The buildings are linked by a glass atrium with walkways running between them and clear points of entry to the different areas at all levels.

Together they comprise an impressive structure, which Professor Errol Haarhoff, head of the School of Architecture, says reflects current issues in architecture and, in terms of its design and its use of materials, brings to the campus an interesting example of international practice.

More than just a building

Photos Godfrey Boehnke



Staff in the Campus Pharmacy. From left are Nadhir Djoudi, Manager, Khoon Yieng Wong, Pharmacist, Philippa Tweedy and Jeanette North.



Munchy Mart in the Student Commons

"I think it is a building that is very successful particularly for architecture students. It is probably the most important on campus as a point of discussion and debate."

He describes it also as "more than just a building but a complex that creates a whole new movement system in the campus as a whole, reinforcing the link between the Student Union and the Grafton Road and Albert Street corner."

In addition, it creates a strong visible presence of the University in Symonds Street, he says. For the many people who drive past the Information Commons in the evening and see its floors lit up and its workstations filled with activity, this will add a new layer to their perception of the University.

"Also the level of use of the Information Commons is proving that it was needed and is serving its purpose," he says. "It amazes me that from the first day every workstation was filled."

The total development is 9,045 square metres of net usable space with the Kate Edger Information Commons taking up 4,726 square metres. A north-facing courtyard of 600 square metres provides outdoor seating. ■

st a building



STA Travel gains trade from staff and students passing by.



Layout for level 1

The plan shows a sample level (level 1) of the Student Commons and Kate Edgar Information Commons Building.

On the left of the map is the Information Commons facing towards Symonds Street. On this level is the Short Loans Collection, and later ELSAC is to be situated here. To the right is the Student Commons, with the University Bookshop angling down towards the lower right, the Campus Pharmacy opposite the bookshop and on the same angle at the top centre, and the National Bank beside it.



Level 2 of the Commons complex



A place to quench thirst on the Information Commons landing.



The entryway to the buildings from the quad in front of the Recreation Centre.



IC Help in the Information Commons on Level 2.